Opinion

Monday, March 21 is the time— blood clinic seeking 100 units

If Nicholas countians give 214 units of blood between now and Oct. 31, Nicholas county as a whole will be covered when blood is needed for the first time ever.

The Nicholas County Ministerial Association is sponsoring a blood clinic at the First Baptist Church on Monday, March 21, from 1:45-30 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. It is hoped that 100 units of blood can be obtained on Monday. If it is, we can be fairly well assured that in two more drawings we will be able to get the remaining 114.

Last Fall the Central Kentucky Blood Center sent a small staff to Nicholas county because only a small number of persons had signed up to give blood when they checked two days before. Many of our volunteers were turned away because the staff of workers was inadequate.

We fussed!

This year, the Blood Center is sending a double staff with the expectation that as many people will again show up to give. At least 150 or more people are needed in order to obtain the 100-unit goal.

An appointment is needed so that the waiting period will be held to a minimum. Any healthy person between the ages of 18 and 66 is asked to contact Rev. H. Dallas Sugg at 289-5293 or 289-5658 or Rev. Herman Kamlage at 289-5507 to make an appointment. Your cooperation in making an appointment will be greatly appreciated. Persons living in Bath, Robertson and Bourbon counties who are depending on the Nicholas County Blood Donors Group to supply their blood needs, are also asked to make an appointment.

Blood, along with other natural resources, is at a critical low at this time. Because of the bad weather, many donors have been unable to get to the Center in Lexington to donate and the mobile unit has not been able to keep their appointments. Too, many industries were closed because of the gas shortage. These factors have forced the Center to draw from its reserves.

Nicholas countians met the challenge last Fall when asked. You, and your neighbors in surrounding counties, are being asked to give blood this Monday for the welfare of all of us.

Won't you call Rev. Sugg or Rev. Kamlage right now and make an appointment? Your life may depend on it some day.

A way suggested to end confusion; redistrict Nicholas county

Each time we are faced with an election in Nicholas county, we are beseiged by voters asking us in which district they are located.

The Magisterial Districts are clearly defined with precinct boundaries—if you know in which precinct you vote. There are two precincts in each of the five Magisterial Districts. The School Board Districts are based on precincts too, but Superintendent Raymond Wesley split up some of the precincts when he set up these Districts many years ago. His School Districts description is still used today and does not coincide with the Magisterial Districts. Each School Board election, questions are raised as to where the voter should vote—especially in those areas which have sprung up in the county in more recent years, like Mockingbird Lane and others.

Another problem is evident when one examines the present Magisterial Districts. That is that the Districts are not equally populated as they should be. Magisterial District IV, for example, comprising Mayor's Office and Engine House Precincts, has over one-third (35%) of the county's registered voters. (See attached statistics from the Nicholas County Court Clerk's office.) This is obviously a lopsided situation.

All five Magistrates and three School Board members will be elected this year.

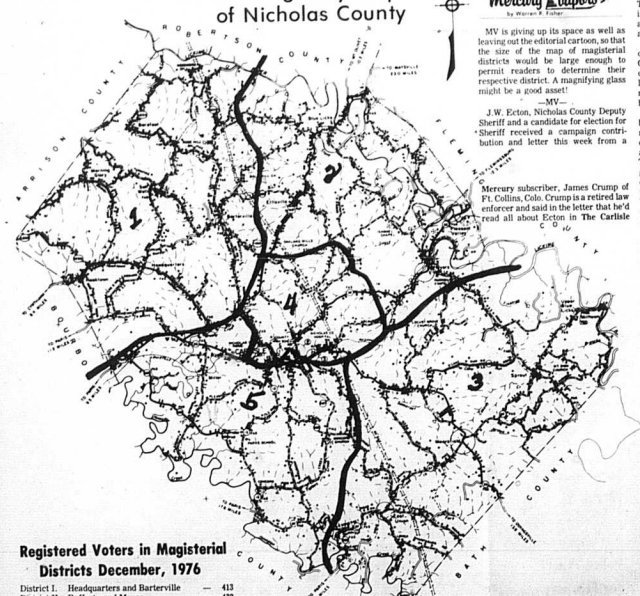
The Carlisle Mercury would like to go on record as emphatically suggesting that the new Fiscal Court, when seated, set the wheels in motion for redistricting the county—designating School Districts the same as the Magisterial Districts.

Of course, we are aware that this will be a big job because a census of the entire county will necessarily have to be taken to determine area populations. Then the precincts will have to be realigned to mirror the county's population division equally.

Then we would suggest that maps be drawn up, showing the new Districts, and that they be made available to any county resident who would like one.

The end result should be less confusion for everyone, especially the voter who needs to know in what District he resides so that he can vote for his Magistrate or his School Board representative.

Magisterial Districts Outlined on General Highway Map of Nicholas County



Registered Voters in Magisterial Districts December, 1976

District I. Headquarters and Barterville	— 413
District II. Rafferty and Myers	— 432
District III. Moorefield and East Union	— 526
District IV. Mayor's Office and Engine House	— 1160
District V. Mathias and City Building	— 696
Total Registered	3227

20 and 40 years ago

Thursday, March 21, 1957

The Nicholas County Blue Jackets of Coach Charles Finnell dropped a heartbreaking 56-55 decision to Dixie Heights in the last 30 minutes of play Thursday afternoon at Freedom Hall State Fairgrounds, Louisville, as 800 local fans looked on.

The general merchandise store belonging to Frank Weaver and the post office at Moorefield were robbed last Wednesday night or early Thursday morning, $300 belonging to Weaver, and $80 in postal receipts were taken.

BORN—To Rev. and Mrs. Phillip H. Long, Columbis, Ohio, a son, Phillip H. Jr., March 9.

DIED—Jimmy Crawford, 21, of Kingsport, Tenn, March 13. He was a nephew of David Galyon.—Jimmie Lee Towles, three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Towles, Thursday, in Lexington.—Miss Lucille Conkright, 15, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Conkright, Sunday, at her home near Blue Licks Springs.—Raymond (Ray) Crump, 70, Sunday, in Louisville.—Oscar S. Whirls, 81, Monday, at the residence of a daughter in Morrow, Ohio.—Ashley Scott, 64, of Augusta, Thursday, in Lexington.

Thursday, March 25, 1937

Tobacco base for 1181 farms in Nicholas county is 6,450 acres, according to the Agricultural Conservation Committee. These farms cover 123,113.5 acres of Nicholas county farm land.

Bruce Morford, Carlisle attorney, was appointed by Lieut. Gov. Keen Johnson as research director of the State Legislative Council.

Prof. E.E. Pfanstiel, superintendent of the Carlisle City School was elected president of the Central Kentucky Conference at the annual spring meeting held at the Phoenix Hotel in Lexington on Saturday.

George Henry Frederick, 103 years old, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Ritchie on the Harrison-Nicholas line, near Mt. Pleasant, last Wednesday.

James P. Tune, formerly of Carlisle, was elected eminent commander of Versailles Commandery Knights Templar, at a meeting of the order last week.

The arrival of martins in Carlisle on March 23 officially heralded the coming of spring.

Mild weather is forecast for next Sunday, Easter.

BORN—To Mr. and Mrs. Tivis Minton, March 20, a son; Silvester Tivis Minton II.

MARRIED—Miss Esther Glenn and Claud Prows, both of Bourbon county, here, Saturday afternoon.

DIED—William Wagoner, 20, at the home of his parents, Friday.

Mercury Vapors

by Warren P. Fisher

MV is giving up its space as well as leaving out the editorial cartoon, so that the size of the map of magisterial districts would be large enough to permit readers to determine their respective district. A magnifying glass might be a good asset!

—MV—

J.W. Ecton, Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff and a candidate for election for Sheriff received a campaign contribution and letter this week from a Mercury subscriber, James Crump of Ft. Collins, Colo. Crump is a retired law enforcer and said in the letter that he'd read all about Ecton in **The Carlisle Mercury** and liked what he read. He advised Ecton that he couldn't vote for him even if he were a county resident since he's a registered Republican.

Agree or not

by S.C. Van Curon

FRANKFORT—The U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the Oklahoma case last week dealing with a court "gag order" involving publication of a juvenile's name in a murder case has little bearing in Kentucky since there is no prohibition against publishing a juvenile's name in police or criminal court cases.

The U.S. Court ruled that judges cannot prohibit newspapers from publishing information from a public hearing even if state law would have permitted the hearing to be closed. The case involved an 11-year-old boy in the shooting death of a railroad switchman.

Kentucky does have a law, KRS 208.340, paragraph (2) which says, "All police records regarding children who have not reached their 18th birthday shall not be opened to scrutiny by the public."

This simply means that police records on juveniles are confidential, but there is no law that says the newspaper cannot publish the names if it can get access to the names.

In the 1972 and the 1974 legislative sessions, bills were introduced prohibiting the publication of juvenile names in court cases with penalties attached. Both efforts failed. Another bill failed in the 1974 session that would have prohibited the publication of the name of any witness under 18 involved in a rape charge.

Most Kentucky newspapers don't publish the names of juveniles unless they are tried in open court as an adult.

A constitutional amendment giving 18-year-olds the right to vote was proposed in 1954 and was ratified by the voters in 1955. The 1956 session wrote the statutes on it.

Prior to that time, a person wasn't considered an adult with voting and other rights until he reached the age of 21.

Since that time 18-year-olds have been granted, under law, almost full privileges as an adult. The one exception that many complain about is that a person is not permitted to buy alcoholic beverages in Kentucky until he reaches the age of 21.

In the 1964 legislative session 18, 19, and 20-year-olds were granted adult rights in the area of business. They can buy a car, sign a note, marry, buy a home on the monthly payment plan, and perform any business transaction formerly granted to those 21 years old and older.

Prior to that time, an adult had to act or sign as security for these young age groups.

The surge for voting rights for 18-year-olds followed World War II and the Korean War since the government drafted 18-year-olds and older for the armed services and they fought on the battle fields.

The 1974 legislature passed an open meetings bill that requires all governmental boards to conduct their business in public and the records are open to the news media who act as a courier to bring this information for those of the public who are not able or do not attend the meetings of these governmental bodies.

There are a few instances in which meetings may be closed to the public because such information might be detrimental to the public interest or to that of an individual. In this category are cases dealing with personnel or when a public agency wants to buy property. When these transactions are completed, the results are made known to the public.

The open records bill was passed during the 1976 session of the legislature. This law says all public records are open to people who have an interest in them. There are certain records exempt in this bill, such as adoption, welfare, and personal or business tax returns.

Generally, the 18 to 21 age groups in Kentucky have more rights than in most states.

Sensing the news

by Anthony Harrigan

ROOTS: Another View

The extraordinary impact of "Roots", the television drama of slavery days based on Alex Haley's book, is such that it may affect public perceptions of American history. If this is the case, it will be an unfortunate development.

The American people need accurate understanding of their history. They don't need myths or social fictions. They don't need artificial "positive images" to strengthen the psyches of any group of citizens. Facts, only facts, are necessary and proper.

The fact of slavery in the early days of America is a fact—an unhappy one. On the other hand, the areas of our country where the system was established were areas which furnished this nation with a great part of its valuable heritage.

Television is a fascinating medium, but it is essentially a **dramatic** or **melodramatic** medium. It is not an effective medium presenting a balanced picture of historical realities. Television seeks good guys and bad guys, saints and sinners. It is an effective medium for inducing guilt, as the nation learned during the Vietnam War, but ineffective in presenting the workings of the mainstream of a country's history.

No American need feel guilt about the origins of this country. Every section and group made some contribution. The region that produced George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and other giants of character, thought, and leadership need only feel pride about its beginnings and its progress. If there were imperfections in the social order at the start, these imperfections were part of worldwide social and economic arrangements.

The early settlers on the South Atlantic seaboard, for example, found themselves in a hostile environment. They were surrounded by menacing Indians. They had little support from England. Their food supply depended on their own efforts. If they failed, they starved.

Consider one little known pioneer in America, Dr. Henry Woodward. He landed on the Carolina coast in 1669 and lived among the Indians for a year. The following year, as the agent of the Lords Proprietors, he established a settlement at Albemarle Point in what is now South Carolina. He was responsible for the introduction of rice as a staple crop. The settlement he planted on the coast grew and flourished. The perimeter of the settlement was extended. Englishmen and French Huguenot settlers cut plantations out of the fever-ridden, snake-infested wilderness. Cypress swamps were drained. River banks were built for ricefields.

A superb agriculture society was created on the edge of a wilderness. Handsome houses were built in towns and cities. An educated class was created that built schools and sent sons to England to receive higher education. Civil government on the English plan, with a refined system of responsibilities and liberties, was created. By the 1760's, this colony was ready for self-government. It played a major role in creating a new nation, with a new system of constitutional government.

Many Americans can boast of such roots. They should do so. In each of the original colonies, a somewhat similar process was at work, in Virginia, North Caroline, Rhode Island, Delaware, and so on. In time, the roots so firmly planted on the Eastern seaboard were transplanted across the Appalachian Mountains. Later, the roots of the European settlers would influence the culture, values, and governmental system of Americans who moved west of the Mississippi.

This is the earliest, most important part of the American story, though other immigrant groups made significant contributions. The people who came to North America from the British Isles created the mold of the American nation. They provided basic institutions and values. They furnished the language Americans speak and freedoms that are rooted in the historic freedoms of England.

Too often in recent years, Americans have been quick to downgrade some aspect of their history, willing to attribute the worst to our Founding Fathers and their contemporaries. The United States survives today as a free nation, with broad opportunity for all its diverse population, because of the essential wisdom of the leadership of the American colonies at the early, critical stage of their history.

As Americans view Alex Haley's television drama, they should bear in mind the basic greatness and goodness of the nation planted on these shores.

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Phillip Coldiron of Route 4 brought this picture into The Mercury office Monday morning as proof that this fish story is true. According to Coldiron, who is pictured with his string of largemouth bass, his catch totaled 13¼ pounds with the big one in the center weighing 7½ pounds. [The Mercury employee who talked with the fisherman forgot to ask whether that was with or without the large fish he said he found whole inside it.] Coldiron said his brother-in-law, Jerry Tabor of Nicholas county, caught a string of four bass weighing a total of eight pounds. All the fish, he said, were caught in a private lake in a neighboring county on Sunday between 4 and 6:30 p.m.—Photo sub-

Sen. Wendell Ford seeking written comments from burdened taxpayers

Senator Wendell Ford (D-Ky.), the new chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee's Consumer Subcommittee, asked consumers and small businessmen to write the Subcommittee on those issues which they consider to be most pressing.

"The Consumer Subcommittee is in the process of drawing up its legislative and oversight program for the 95th Congress," Senator Ford said. "I want to be sure that we are pursuing issues about which people are most concerned.

"I am asking consumers, consumer organizations, and small businessmen who have been cheated or burdened by an unfair or deceptive practice or who have been adversely affected by federal government actions to write to us. While I cannot promise that the Subcommittee can resolve or even investigate each and every complaint we receive, each submission will be considered."

Ford noted that the subcommittee is most interested in "chronic problems—problems which are principally systematic in nature." "In the past, the Subcommittee has focused on issues such as unsafe consumer products, spiraling cost of automobile insurance, duplicative or conflicting federal and state regulations, and price marking in the grocery store, just to name a few," Ford said. "Issues such as these would be most appropriate for subcommittee consideration."

Written comments should be sent to: Consumer Subcommittee, 126 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

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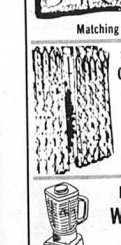

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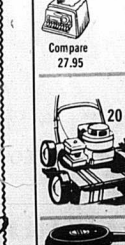

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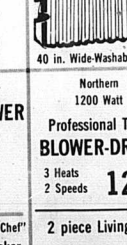

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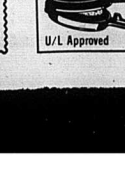

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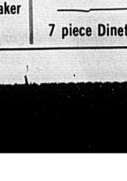

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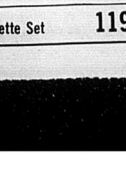

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